

CDBG PROGRAM

DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

PURPOSE

The Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) offers grants to Missouri communities to improve local facilities, address health and safety concerns, and develop a greater capacity for growth. This category provides assistance to improve the condition of a community's downtown area.

AUTHORIZATION

42 USC § 5301 et seq., 24 C.F.R. Part 570; and Missouri's "Consolidated Plan" submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

State CDBG funds are only available to cities and counties in non-entitlement areas. A non-entitlement area is a city with population less than 50,000 and/or a county with population less than 200,000.

ELIGIBLE USE OF FUNDS

Public infrastructure and improvements that will significantly contribute to the revitalization or redevelopment of the downtown. These improvements may include, but are not limited to, water, sewer, electric, gas, sidewalks, curb cuts, street paving, parking, lighting, professional services and administration activities. Marketing costs are not eligible.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Communities interested in applying for grant assistance should complete a CDBG application. The application cycle is open year-round with no deadline date and is based upon availability of funds. Applications are rated on need, project impact, local effort, and past efforts. Applicants must score a minimum of 65 points out of 100 to gain a recommendation for award.

FUNDING LIMITS

The maximum amount any applicant can apply for is \$400,000.

SPECIAL PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

- ♦ Funding is based on several factors. These include, but are not limited to, developing and utilizing adopted design guidelines, maintaining an active downtown organization capable of providing a coordinated redevelopment strategy, and tailoring the public improvements to be a planned and incremental part of a comprehensive revitalization process. Public improvements must be part of a comprehensive redevelopment process such as the Main Street approach, which balances activities in four basic areas: organization, promotion, design, and economic restructuring. The rehabilitation of historic properties must conform to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards.
- ♦ The Downtown Revitalization Program requires \$1 of private investment committed for every \$1 of CDBG funds requested. Although there is no local match requirement, successful applicants often include local cash and in-kind to support the projects.
- ♦ Downtown revitalization must benefit at least 51% LMI (low to moderate income benefit), or be slum and blight clearance.

CONTACT

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Additional Resources

Go to the department's home page at www.ded.mo.gov to obtain guidelines and forms for the CDBG Downtown Revitalization Program as well as a wealth of information regarding this program and Missouri's many other economic development programs and policies.